



University of Pennsylvania
ScholarlyCommons

TTCSP India Summit Reports

TTCSP National Summits

8-1-2020

2020 India Think Tank Forum

James G. McGann
University of Pennsylvania

Follow this and additional works at: https://repository.upenn.edu/ttcsp_india_reports

 Part of the [International Relations Commons](#)

McGann, James G., "2020 India Think Tank Forum" (2020). *TTCSP India Summit Reports*. 1.
https://repository.upenn.edu/ttcsp_india_reports/1

Copyright © August 2019. Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program. Permission is granted for reproduction of this file, with attribution to the Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program, Lauder Institute, University of Pennsylvania.

This paper is posted at ScholarlyCommons. https://repository.upenn.edu/ttcsp_india_reports/1
For more information, please contact repository@pobox.upenn.edu.

2020 India Think Tank Forum

Abstract

The Fourth Annual India Think Tank Forum (ITFF) took place in New Delhi, India from January 12 to 13, 2020. The forum was co-hosted by the Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program (TTCSP) of the University of Pennsylvania and the Observer Research Foundation (ORF). It brought together think tank scholars and executives from over 50 think tank institutions from South Asia including India, Bangladesh, Nepal and Maldives, as well as institutions from France, Poland, Russia, Germany, the United Kingdom and the United States. This Forum was conducted in a Roundtable Format with panels that were intended to frame the key issues and provide constructively provocative questions to stimulate the discussion that follows each Session. The Forum was conducted in accordance with the Chatham House Rule.

Keywords

Think Tank, Civil Society, NGO, India Think Tank Summit, Lauder Institute, University of Pennsylvania

Disciplines

International Relations

Comments

Copyright © August 2019. Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program. Permission is granted for reproduction of this file, with attribution to the Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program, Lauder Institute, University of Pennsylvania.



FORUM REPORT

India Think Tank Forum, 2020

National Capital Territory of Delhi, Republic of India

James G. McGann

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

January 2020





ABOUT THE THINK TANKS AND CIVIL SOCIETIES PROGRAM (TTCSP)

The Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program (TTCSP) of the Lauder Institute at the University of Pennsylvania conducts research on the role policy institutes play in governments and civil societies around the world. Often referred to as the “think tanks’ think tank,” TTCSP examines the evolving role and character of public policy research organizations. Over the last 30 years, the TTCSP has developed and led a series of global initiatives that have helped bridge the gap between knowledge and policy in critical policy areas such as international peace and security, globalization and governance, international economics, environmental issues, information and society, poverty alleviation, and healthcare and global health. These international collaborative efforts are designed to establish regional and international networks of policy institutes and communities that improve policy making while strengthening democratic institutions and civil societies around the world.

ABOUT THE LAUDER INSTITUTE

The Lauder Institute of Management and International Studies offers an M.A. in international studies and conducts fundamental and policy-oriented research on current economic, political, and business issues. It organizes an annual conference that brings academics, practitioners, and policy makers together to examine global challenges such as financial risks, sustainability, inequality, and the future of the state.

ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

The University of Pennsylvania (Penn) is an Ivy League school with highly selective admissions and a history of innovation in interdisciplinary education and scholarship. A world-class research institution, Penn boasts a picturesque campus in the middle of Philadelphia, a dynamic city that is conveniently located between Washington, D.C. and New York, New York the University of Pennsylvania was founded by Benjamin Franklin in 1740 to push the frontiers of knowledge and benefit society by integrating study in the liberal arts and sciences with opportunities for research and practical, pre-professional training at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. Penn is committed to meeting the full demonstrated need of all undergraduates with grant-based financial aid, making this intellectually compelling integration of liberal and professional education accessible to talented students of all backgrounds and empowering them to make an impact on the world.

Contents

Acknowledgments	5
Introduction and Format	6
Forum Concept Note	7
The Future of Think Tanks and Policy Advice in Asia	8
Globalization 2.0: Asia and the New World Order	10
Rethinking Models of Economic Growth and Development	11
#SheLeads: Strengthening Women Leadership in Policy and Politics	13
Keynote Address	15
Hate Bytes: Countering Violent Extremism Online	17
Road to 2030: Strategies for Achieving Sustainable Inclusive Growth and Development While Saving Our Planet	20
India Think Tanks: Strategies, Operational Challenges and Action Agenda 2020	23
Forum Agenda	24
List of Participants	29
List of Participating Institutions	44
Forum Host, Organizer, and Partner	45
About TTCSP	47

Acknowledgments

This report was funded by the Observer Research Foundation. We are grateful to them and to all our funders, who make it possible for the Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program to advance its mission.



Additional thanks to the India Team at the Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program, especially: Ms. Victoria Price (Project Lead), Mr. Samyak Leekha, Ms. Soumya Mittal, and Ms. Xuewen Ning.

The views expressed are those of James G. McGann and should not be attributed to the Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program, the Lauder Institute at the University of Pennsylvania, or its funders. Funders do not determine research findings or the insights and recommendations of the Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program.

Introduction and Format

The Fourth Annual India Think Tank Forum (ITTF) took place in New Delhi, India from January 12 to 13, 2020. The forum was co-hosted by the Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program (TTCSP) of the University of Pennsylvania and the Observer Research Foundation (ORF). It brought together think tank scholars and executives from over 50 think tank institutions from South Asia including India, Bangladesh, Nepal and Maldives, as well as institutions from France, Poland, Russia, Germany, the United Kingdom and the United States. This Forum was conducted in a Roundtable Format with panels that were intended to frame the key issues and provide constructively provocative questions to stimulate the discussion that follows each session. The Forum was conducted in accordance with the Chatham House Rule.

This Forum brought together leading thinkers in the policy arena to discuss the challenges and opportunities that Indian think tanks face in the coming decades. Technology has been a key determinant in this trajectory; incorporating technology into communication and research for the speed and brevity our times demand will need to be balanced with maintaining the rigor and expertise that characterize think tanks. Globalization is also a changing force that will require think tanks to adapt. As Asia continues to gain prominence in the global economic order, Indian think tanks will need to adapt to have a strong, effective and relevant impact. Naturally, environmental considerations and sustainability will continue to be of importance and will have to be factored into every policy decision. The institutions and participants at the Forum discussed the direction in which think tanks will need to take their research to improve shared practices, diversify funding, expand female leadership, market strategically and engage youth to carry forward the most important policy initiatives at a regional, national and global scale.



The Future of Think Tanks and Policy Advice in Asia

Co-Chairs

James G. McGann, Director, Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program, Lauder Institute, University of Pennsylvania

Samir Saran, President, Observer Research Foundation

Summary

As technology continues to transform the way that the world communicates and shares ideas, the role of think tanks in the policy sector will also experience transformations. Due to the significance of information technology, think tanks must respond to both political disruptions and digital disruptions, which is a global phenomenon that continues to shape the future. The power of artificial intelligence (AI) will be the most disruptive and will challenge the relevancy of think tanks. Think tanks will certainly continue to play a role in policy, but they must determine what that role will be, how that work adds values and how the impact can hold significance and relevance. While the mission of think tanks—to develop innovative policy ideas and programs—endures, the institutions must be willing to transform to meet the demands of the shifting technological and political landscapes. The reorganization of think tanks will shape its future role in our information-rich environment, and no longer will policymakers be the sole audience for think tanks.

Think tanks must harness the opportunity of the digital age to innovate policy communication for speed and accessibility, while also striving to communicate messages in a clear, concise and engaging way that resonates with broad audiences to establish meaningful engagement. By embracing features of the media through strategic marketing and communication, think tanks can more effectively disseminate large amounts of information, create conversation and connect with communities. Above all, think tanks must consider that they are not in competition with each other; it behooves the field that think tanks collaborate to strengthen communities.

Challenges

- The digitized information world—and shortening attention spans—makes print media more and more obsolete.
- Think tanks that adhere to models of membership organizations and big bureaucracies are not thriving.
- Think tanks that are focused on producing research and policy advice but do not have a range of products and a number of target audiences will struggle.
- The reality for think tanks has become much more demanding and much more competitive.
- The Indian circuit is struggling to attract local businesses to invest in the think tanks
- The government-think tanks linkage is still missing.

Recommendations

- Develop a multi-stakeholder division to make collective decisions, determine research gaps, share knowledge and implement best practices.
 - Include greater involvement of STEM in think tanks.
- Develop strategic communication and marketing.
 - Transition from institution to platform.
 - Enhance and expand the offering of products. Build lighthouses for other products.
 - Diversify the audiences that think tanks are trying to reach.
 - Develop an engagement strategy that can defend expertise and defend the old research methods.
 - Create bite-sized content that attracts people to read long form research.
- Diversify funding and consider crowdfunding.
- Reevaluate human resources goals.
 - The younger generations that are seeking greater involvement in think tanks.
 - Greater funding should be allocated to salaries and human resources, not just large events.
 - Reach out to more student communities, not just Ph.D. students.
- Think tanks must seek solutions to the questions that aren't already being asked; think tanks must consider ways in which they can be 'action tanks' and establish partnerships that go beyond thinking.



Globalization 2.0: Asia and the New World Order

Chair

Harsh V. Pant, Director, Studies, and Head, Strategic Studies Program, Observer Research Foundation

Conversation Starters

Mohan Kumar, Chairman, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS)

Asanga Abeyagoonasekera, Director General, Institute of National Security Studies Sri Lanka (INSSSL)

Harinder Sekhon, Consultant, Vivekananda International Foundation (VIF)

Summary

As we enter the third decade of the Asian Century, the international order is being called into question. “Global” values of the western liberal order are increasingly coming under pressure. While Asia’s rise is redefining global flows of trade and commerce, the prospect of Asian values and cultural norms implicating the emerging global order seems less certain. This panel discussed the constituent elements and dynamics of the new global order. Can the fundamentals of liberalism and democracy survive the Asian Century or is there an alternative version of liberalism and democracy brewing in Asia?

Challenges

- There is a synchronized global crisis with regard to divisive politics and dire economics.
- Debt, inequality of wealth and liberal hegemony have threatened globalization.

- The World Trade Organization has failed to ensure equitable distribution of wealth through free trade.
- The world has experienced a transition from being unipolar to ‘oligopolar’—in which where a few players including US, China and the EU dominated—and is now making a tumultuous transition to a multipolar world, with various global actors gaining prominence.
- It is yet to be known if the future of Asia will be China-centric or polycentric.
 - India is playing a crucial role but not a decisive role, leading to Asia being in a state of flux.
 - India’s role as a democracy and the second largest country by population will involve the challenge of engaging and dealing with the major powers, i.e., US, Russia and China.

Recommendations

- Expand public policy discourse into the global context.
- India’s role as a democracy and the second largest country by population.
- The future of Asia should involve a power sharing model.
 - While at one point it was commonly believed that globalization will progress uninterrupted, the very powers which championed globalization seem to be in a state of retrenchment with other preoccupations, while still wanting to play a global role.
- Explore the impacts of the securitisation of trade, investment and technology.



Rethinking Models of Economic Growth and Development

Chair

James G. McGann, Director, Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program, Lauder Institute, University of Pennsylvania

Conversation Starters

Rajesh Chadha, Program Director, Natural Resources, Brookings India

Manoj Panda, RBI Chair Professor, Institute of Economic Growth (IEG)

Rudrani Bhattacharya, Associate Professor, National Institute of Public Finance & Policy (NIPFP)

Summary

Globalization is in scrutiny around the world. Multilateral trade is failing, and plurilateral and regional trading regimes are coming to the fore. The tension between populism and globalization will only test the possibility of a trade-off between global trade and nationalist economic policy making. The proliferation of digital technologies is allowing for distributed enterprise and flexible organograms, creating new efficiencies and new risks. Is it possible to discover a new global deal that spurs economic integration in a sustainable and equitable manner? In a multipolar world, all poles are not equal, with power continuing to remain an important determinant. Given the shortcomings and successes of the liberal economic order, if the liberal economic

order is to be replaced, what order would take its place? India plays a significant role in reimagining models of economic growth and development domestically and globally, which will have implications for security, diplomacy and geopolitics.

Challenges

- Robert Solows's neoclassical growth model of the 1950s has led the developed world relying extensively on markets; however, since the global financial crisis, that view is under suspicion with the developed world aiming to construct new structures with a larger governmental role as a catalyst.
- The liberal economic order is being challenged, not only by countries and institutions who haven't been beneficiaries, but from those who doubt the efficacy of the order and, more importantly, challenge the institutions which have guided it.
- Amidst chaos from proponents of each, it is difficult to determine if multilateralism, regionalism or plurilateralism is prevailing.
- Both developed and developing countries are exhibiting lower growth rates and rising unemployment. India's growth rate continues to struggle; the share of exports to GDP and the share of imports to GDP of India have both fallen.

Recommendations

- Participate in multilateral arrangements; studies show that a multilateralism, if enacted in a way centered around South Asia, would lead to higher gains.
- Expand research and development in areas of pending reform, including land, labor, capital and infrastructure.
 - Consider integration among developing countries on infrastructure and other long-term policies.
- Participate in global value chains.
- Consider social insurance programs, such as unemployment insurance, to promote stability.
- Sustain exports and trade to prevent a potential 1-2% drop in growth.

January 12-13, 2020
New Delhi



#SheLeads: Strengthening Women Leadership in Policy and Politics

Chair

Sabina Dewan, President & Executive Director, Just Jobs Network

Conversation Starters

Malgorzata Bonikowska, President, Center for International Relations, Poland

R. S. Vasan, Director, Chennai Centre for China Studies (C3S)

Renu Addlakha, Professor, Centre for Women's Development Studies (CWDS)

Summary

There is a wide consensus for having more participation by women in the decision-making processes of policy and politics. However, we hardly see this translated into action. In politics, women currently have an approximate of 33 percent of participation. There is a need for a critical mass of women, since it would have a cascading effect on society, to be in the position to impact policies and debates in the parliament. Importantly, women are not a homogenous group; there are variables, gender hierarchies and different power dynamics to be considered. This panel discussed how both public and private institutions can overcome traditional barriers that curtail the effective participation of women in policy and politics, why women are underrepresented in leadership positions in academia and policy making, and what objective, implementing a gender bias, serves for policy and politics.

Challenges

- While the rights of women have been in debate for decades, gender equality still seems elusive.
 - According to the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Report 2020, the world will not be able to see gender parity for another 100 years.
 - The largest gender inequality is present in political empowerment of women, which studies have shown to have a direct impact on economic outcomes.

Recommendations

- Develop family-oriented programs that can support women in public participation.
- Increase the presence of women in media and conferences.
- Advocate for female role models, especially in the STEM discipline and political sphere.
- Develop partnerships with universities and women institutions to encourage participation.
 - Reach out to university campuses for recruitment.
 - Expand internship opportunities.
 - Consider how targets or quotas may help reach the goal of increased participation.
- Expand women's participation in electoral processes.
- Increase exposure to women leadership, globally.



Keynote Address

Speaker

Ashok Malik, Policy Advisor, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India

Chair

Sunjoy Joshi, Chairman, Observer Research Foundation

Summary

The conundrum of the foreign policy community is that many who spent most of their time in government are representing think tanks, and many who have spent time in think tanks are representing the government in the audience. This is both a strange and meaningful situation: it is a fluid system with a revolving door between the ideas and the practice of foreign policy.

We are familiar with the world of disruption we live in, which requires innovation and transformation. This represents a moment of transition that is here to stay; the predictable order of the last 70 years is changing to 'unorder.' Unorder will endure for a considerable period, and that disruption creates its own vested interests, stakeholders and hierarchy. Think tanks are tasked not with resolving disruption but navigating it. India has the potential to be a leading power during this turbulent transition. India's value is multifold: as a net security provider in the Indo-Pacific and the Indian Ocean region; an emerging net security provider in the Gulf region; an emerging role in Eurasia, Central Asia and high Asia; where policy changes in North and Northwest India would have an impact; expanding the role of India's humanitarian assistance, disaster relief and evacuation; and simply being responsible power and rule setter while many others are pulling out.

India's role in infrastructure building overseas is being noticed. While not as fast as it is needed to be, it is improving, and the financial sustainability of Indian projects is realized by the world as India does not

drain the local population overseas, unlike China. While Indian projects may be small, they are impactful on the local communities. In addition, India is a leader of the Global South which is an important constituency and identity for India as it is conscious of its relationship with the West and the South and considers itself a 'South-western' power. Another important facet highlighted by Mr. Malik was India's model of democracy, which has resonance with many developing countries in Asia and Africa.

With technology being a global driving force, how can India embrace and localize innovation for the wellbeing of its people? How can institutions help create and spread new technologies? How can issues such as climate change and pandemics be resolved by leveraging technologies? How can policymakers ensure that advances in fields like AI and data science be used for the benefit of the common good? India's technology choices in its policymaking will play a crucial role in the world.

Challenges

- In the context of global disruption, the principal power in the world is acting as the biggest disruptor, attempting to preserve its own primacy. Trade and technology are being weaponized, affecting global commerce.
- Presently valued at \$3 trillion, the Indian economy is expected to reach \$10 trillion in the mid-2030s. This rapid transition will have an impact on the internal functioning of India, India's ambitions and India's external posture.
- India has a history of gradualism and must develop a timely and strategic response to the urgent issues associated with global disruptions.

Recommendations

- Cooperation opportunities in the realm of security and combatting terrorism between India and Sri Lanka is needed.
- Determine India's capacity to be a 'net security provider' and 'net security facilitator.'
- Think tanks must play a stronger role in informing governments about the changes in decision making across the world due to changes in processes and technologies.
- Consider and understand the limits that domestic situations in times of turbulent global economics and politics place on governments.

January 12-13, 2020
New Delhi



Hate Bytes: Countering Violent Extremism Online

Chair

Shruti Pandalai, Associate Fellow, Institute of Defence Studies and Analyses, India

Conversation Starters

Shanthie M. D'Souza, Founder & President, Mantraya, India

Magdalena Kirchner, Country Director Afghanistan, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung

Summary

The convergence of technology and extremism is the worst feedback loop between the real and the virtual. Online platforms enable communities to exchange ideas, but have also been exploited by extremists to build coalitions across the world, hitherto unseen or unheard of. States today find it extremely arduous to foil both domestic and transnational attempts to foment violence in their domiciles. While the spread of violent narratives has been perennial, relentless and global, responses have been sporadic.

India seems to be at its most vulnerable to online extremism at the moment due to a variety of factors: increasing radical content targeting the Indian Muslim population, internal churning leading to radical groups feeling the need to capitalize on the moment, and ISIS choosing South Asia for its comeback after being plummeted in its home territory as reflected by the Sri Lanka Easter bombings.

Meta-narratives of jihadist discourse that exist in India include the narrative of the 'global caliphate,' adopted by groups like ISIS; 'cross-border terrorism,' which is believed to be emanating from Pakistan, is focused on the narrative of defeating India and is linked to Kashmir; and the so-called 'homegrown terrorism' of groups like the Indian Mujahideen which is the result of a fray in social cohesion, has a communal agenda, and is focused on hitting back at the Indian state. These three narratives are not mutually exclusive and have been merging from time to time; however, it is very rare to have a response that is cohesive. India seems more focused on operational intelligence rather than the message. This raises some key issues; specifically,

why are the messages resonating and why is a particular audience being targeted?

Extremist ideologies glorify the supremacy of a particular group whether it is based on religion, race, citizenship, class or conviction, and oppose the idea of a more open and inclusive society. Think tanks need to develop a well-coordinated strategy to combat hate speech and online extremism, with more emphasis on civic engagement. Further, a broad programme to counter hate speech is needed, involving the education sector, state-level campaigns and programmes, and civil society led initiatives. Such a program must consider an approach that educates, creates awareness, discourages hate and intolerance, prohibits and criminalizes the most extreme form of hate speech by law while guaranteeing the safeguarding of the fundamental human right of free speech.

Challenges

- Globalization has united communities while also ossifying local identities, which can lead to radicalization.
- The Government of India's approach to profiling and big data leads to issues of privacy and intrusion of rights, and the implementation of internet shutdowns has not proved to be effective.
- While organized terrorist groups have used the internet for indoctrination, training, recruitment and even execution of attacks, a new and more problematic phenomenon is that of lone-wolf terrorism.

Recommendations

- Distinguish between radicalization and violent extremism. The interchangeability of terms like extremism, terrorism and radicalization poses hurdles in the way of strategies aimed at combatting violent extremism; not all radicalism is violent.
- Explore the relationship between online and offline extremist narratives; what specific role does technology play in facilitating radicalization? What are the offline factors leading to radicalization?
- Expand research on the demographics targeted by and susceptible to online extremism.
 - How are women impacted? Why are well-to-do individuals joining online radicalization? What is the impact on school and university students?
- Determine the empirically proven best practices for technology firms in combating online radicalization.
- Address the ossification of local identities due to globalization leading to radicalization.
- Reflect on whether the Government of India's response is adequate and commensurate to the ethics of society vis-à-vis intrusion of rights.
- Need to develop strategies for prevention rather than counter-narratives through strategic communications to combat online radicalization.
- Collaborate with think tanks in developing web platforms for exchanging information and practices to counter online radicalization.
- Develop an approach which educates, creates awareness, discourages hate and intolerance, and prohibits and criminalizes the most extreme forms of hate speech by law while guaranteeing the safeguarding of the fundamental human rights of free speech and information.
- Develop a broad programme to counter hate speech, involving the education sector, state-level campaigns and programmes, and civil society led initiatives.
- Understand how extremist groups engage in different platforms to leverage their message.



Road to 2030: Strategies for Achieving Sustainable Inclusive Growth and Development While Saving Our Planet

Chair

Ashok Khosla, Chairman, Development Alternatives

Conversation Starters

Jyoti Parikh, Executive Director, Integrated Research and Action for Development (IRADe), India

Shibani Ghosh, Fellow, Centre for Policy Research, India

Syed M. Kamal, Senior Research Associate, Policy Research Institute, Bangladesh

Summary

The global order is being disrupted both politically and economically, rendering ever more difficult the emerging world's quest to ensure sustainable development. Developing countries are struggling to raise finances to fuel their sustainable development pathways, while trillions of dollars remain locked up in Western pension funds and insurance schemes. Moreover, the global developmental agenda is being increasingly securitized. National security is being evoked to marginalize civil society, international organizations, and voices that are most implicated by climate change. Walls around technology will lead to more inequality with developing states losing much access to key tools for development and growth.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) describe baseline goals for countries to achieve and build on, based on their specific context. The goals require a systemic analysis to make sure that no one is left behind, focusing on four key issues: equity, economic issues, environment and sustainability, and empowerment. To meet the goals for addressing issues such as hunger, poverty, health and education, there is first a need for infrastructure, investment and public policy. Electricity and clean fuel such as Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) were made accessible to the public through strong public policy and incremental

changes. Second, there is a need for government action. Think tanks play a crucial role in motivating this action as well as providing information for upscaling. Third, there needs to be collaboration among NGOs and from NGOs to other civil societies. Think tanks can facilitate this cross-learning and bring grassroots knowledge to the government and policy making.

To approach these goals regarding climate change and environmental protections, think tanks should consider country-specific solutions and engage stakeholders outside of the government, including the private sector. First, think tanks should align policies with clearly defined environmental outcomes. For example, realign air quality regulation to consider improved ambient air quality, instead of specific point sources. Second, laws and regulations have to be properly designed and have built-in transparency and accountability. For example, air pollution is a problem along the regional belt of Indo-Gangetic plains, yet the regulatory frameworks are state-centric. They need to be redesigned to look at air sheds instead. Further, there needs to be increased public consultation in their redesigning. Third, regulatory institutions need to be adequately strengthened to implement and enforce the laws. For instance, the Pollution Control Board in Punjab, a state which is supposed to play a crucial role in combating air pollution records a 30 percent vacancy in sanctioned posts. Similarly, the National Green Tribunal, the premier court for environmental grievance redressal, has not had a chairperson for several months. Along with the personnel, we also need to consider the powers, the expertise and capacity these institutions have. When India is facing the national emergency of air pollution, its premier institutions are running at sub-optimal levels.

Bangladesh serves as a strong example of active government involvement in supporting the growth and the contribution of think tanks and civil society organizations in it. First, Bangladesh has adopted a long-term plan called *Delta Plan 2100: Long-term Strategy*. The country plans to eradicate extreme poverty by 2030 and climate change and water resource management have been part of every policy making decision, including resource allocation. To this purpose, the government and think tanks worked towards a national security strategy and a security plan for the poor that is more common in developed countries.

Second, Bangladesh recognizes that since resources are limited, some goals have to be prioritized. For serious policy action, these actions are directly undertaken by the highest level of bureaucrats in the Prime Minister's Office. There were actions on the governance side on healthcare, technology and the energy sector. Public healthcare was prioritized in lieu of advanced healthcare, so the government adopted the universal healthcare system. There were wide-ranging digitization efforts. Off-grid energy and solar home systems were preferred to the central grid, giving more energy independence to the communities. The reforms were specific and brought about in a short period of 4-6 years.

Third, the government understood the importance of growth and focused on investment. There was investment in infrastructure and businesses. An investment board—a one-stop shop to invest—was formulated. The country planned to open almost a hundred economic zones, modeled after Shenzhen's special economic zones.

All think tanks must continue to reflect environmental considerations in their policy goals and embrace the critical role of aggregating information at various levels, from local to national, and bridge the communication gap among stakeholders to achieve the SDGs.

Challenges

- The global developmental agenda is increasingly securitized.
- Among think tanks, a lack of sharing best practices and communication leads to inconsistency in implementation, prioritization, and allocation.

- National security is being evoked to marginalize civil society, international organizations and voices that are most implicated by climate change.
- Inaccessibility to technology prevents the implementation of tools for development and growth, leading to inequality.

Recommendations

- Think tanks need to incorporate environmental conservation and protection into SDGs that emphasize the reduction of emissions.
 - While achieving efficiency is important, we also need to focus on sufficiency.
 - Civil societies need to address this through furthering decentralization and changing consumption patterns.
- Continue research that focuses on technological innovations, growth aspirations and global concerns regarding carbon space; include a greater focus on biodiversity.
- Align policies with clearly defined environmental outcomes.
 - The environmental outcomes should be redefined to decide the quality of air we want to breathe as opposed to the number of industries we can allow in an area. These outcomes cannot be secondary to other extraneous influences such as ease of running business.
 - Design laws and regulations with built-in transparency and accountability and include increased public consultation in their redesigning.
 - Strengthened regulatory institutions enough to implement and enforce the laws.
- Sustainability goals must aim for improving access to basic needs that require global attention.
 - Improve infrastructure, investments and public policy.
 - Motivate government action.
 - Collaborate across NGOs and to other civil societies. Facilitate the cross-learning needed to bring grassroots knowledge to the government and policymakers.
- To further its SDGs, Bangladesh must address bridging a skills gap, addressing environmental issues and considering the middle-income trap.



India Think Tanks: Strategies, Operational Challenges and Action Agenda 2020

Co-Chairs

James G. McGann, Director, Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program, Lauder Institute, University of Pennsylvania

Harsh V. Pant, Director, Studies, and Head, Strategic Studies Program, Observer Research Foundation

Conversation Starters

Neelam Deo, Co-founder & Director, Gateway House, India

Pradeep Singh Mehta, Secretary General, CUTS International

Arun Sahgal, Senior Fellow, Delhi Policy Group, India

Summary

The churn, complexity and uncertainty in global politics has several implications on domestic issues too. Think tanks in India are being increasingly sought by policymakers for their expertise to navigate a complex world. Technology and polarization in politics also pose challenges for Indian think tanks to conduct empirical policy research work. In such a situation, how should Indian think tanks contribute to India's growth story? What are the challenges, actions and strategies they should adopt to be relevant to governments and the public?

Challenges

- Multilateralism and globalization have lost ground to native, populist and protectionist tendencies.
- The Internet has become a 'fieldwork' space, resulting in internet-mediated research with weak methodology. Additionally, data is often used to confirm bias, rather than discover new findings.

- Think tanks are struggling to engage, recruit and retain young researchers.

Recommendations

- Think tanks must align their research with the changing narrative of the global discourse.
 - Develop a specific set of research interests and action aims.
- Understand the dynamics of policy communications.
 - Diversify communication offerings.
 - Maintain the rigor of long-form research.
 - Use social media as a tool for engagement, but not as a substitute for substantial literature.
 - Open two-way communication channels for audience engagement.
 - Find a balance between academic and journalistic writing.
- Emphasize data-driven methods, and address research assumptions and biases.
- Develop strategic marketing, including branding.
- Open up more government data for access.
- Strengthen ties to universities and involve young voices shaping the evolving think tank environment.
- Strengthen language training to overcome regional and international language barriers.

4TH ANNUAL INDIA THINK TANK FORUM

January 12-13, 2020

New Delhi



Forum Agenda

New Capital Territory of Delhi, Republic of India

January 12-13, 2020

4th India Think Tank Forum 2020

Hosted by: University of Pennsylvania and Observer Research Foundations

January 12, 2020

Viceregal Hall, The Claridges, APJ Abdul Kalam Road, New Delhi – 110011

19:00-19:30

Cocktail Reception

19:30-20:10

The Future of Think Tanks and Policy Advice in Asia

In the post-Cold War era, think tanks became proponents and managers of globalization. They paid lip service to the disruption of cultural identities, economic displacement and increasing socioeconomic inequalities that resulted from it. The advent and rapid diffusion of digital technologies has caught think tanks in their tailwind. This panel will discuss how think tanks need to reengineer themselves to cater to the individual and be effective in a digital age. Given that philanthropies in Asia are unlikely to write large checks for perpetuity, how should think tanks adjust to seek financial sources and maintain human resources to produce cutting edge research?

Co-Chairs:

Samir Saran, *President, Observer Research Foundation*

James G. McGann, *Director, Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program, Lauder Institute, University of Pennsylvania*

20:10-22:00 **Inaugural Dinner**

January 13, 2020

Viceregal Hall, The Claridges, APJ Abdul Kalam Road, New Delhi – 110011

08:30-09:00 **Participant Registration**

09:00-09:15 **Welcome Remarks**

James G. McGann, *Director, Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program, Lauder Institute, University of Pennsylvania*

Harsh V. Pant, *Director, Studies, and Head, Strategic Studies Program, Observer Research Foundation*

09:15-10:15 **Globalization 2.0: Asia and the New World Order**

As we enter the third decade of the Asian Century, the international order is being called into question. “Global” values of the Western liberal order are increasingly coming under pressure. While Asia’s rise is redefining global flows of trade and commerce, the prospect of Asian values and cultural norms implicating the emerging global order seems less certain. This panel will discuss the constituent elements and dynamics of the new global order. Can the fundamentals of liberalism and democracy survive the Asian Century or is there an alternative version of liberalism and democracy brewing in Asia?

Chair: Harsh V. Pant, *Director, Studies, and Head, Strategic Studies Program, Observer Research Foundation*

Conversation Starters:

Mohan Kumar, *Chairman, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS)*

Asanga Abeyagoonasekera, *Director General, Institute of National Security Studies Sri Lanka (INSSSL)*

Harinder Sekhon, *Consultant, Vivekananda International Foundation (VIF)*

10:15-11:15 **Rethinking Models of Economic Growth and Development**

Globalization is in scrutiny around the world. Multilateral trade is failing and plurilateral and regional trading regimes are coming to the fore. The tension between populism and globalization will only test the possibility of a trade off between global trade and nationalist economic policy making. The proliferation of digital technologies is allowing for distributed enterprise and flexible organizations, creating new efficiencies and new risks. Is it possible to discover a new global deal that spurs economic integration in a sustainable and equitable manner?

Chair: James G. McGann, *Director, Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program, Lauder Institute, University of Pennsylvania*

Conversation Starters:

Rajesh Chadha, *Program Director, Natural Resources, Brookings India*

Manoj Panda, *RBI Chair Professor, Institute of Economic Growth (IEG)*

Rudrani Bhattacharya, *Associate Professor, National Institute of Public Finance & Policy (NIPFP)*

11:15-11:30 **Tea/Coffee Break**

11:30-12:30 **#SheLeads: Strengthening Women Leadership in Policy and Politics**

There is a wide consensus for having more participation by women in the decision making processes of policy and politics. However, we hardly see this translating into action. This panel will discuss how both public and private institutions can overcome traditional barriers that curtail the effective participation of women in policy and politics, why women are underrepresented in leadership positions in academia and policy making, and what objective implementing a gender bias serves for policy and politics.

Chair: Sabina Dewan, *President & Executive Director, Just Jobs Network*

Conversation Starters:

Malgorzata Bonikowska, *President, Center for International Relations, Poland*

R. S. Vasan, *Director, Chennai Centre for China Studies (C3S)*

Renu Addlakha, *Professor, Centre for Women's Development Studies (CWDS)*

12:30-13:00 **Keynote Address**

Ashok Malik, *Policy Advisor, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India*

Chair: Sunjoy Joshi, *Chairman, Observer Research Foundation*

13:00-14:30 **Lunch Session - Hate Bytes: Countering Violent Extremism Online**

The convergence of technology and extremism is the worst feedback loop between the real and the virtual. Online platforms enable communities to exchange ideas, but have also been exploited by extremists to build coalitions across the world, hitherto unseen or unheard of. States today find it extremely arduous to foil both domestic and transnational attempts to foment violence in their domiciles. While the spread of violent narratives has been perennial, relentless and global, responses have been sporadic. This panel will discuss the approaches to be taken to respond to tech-enabled terrorism.

Chair: Shruti Pandalai, *Associate Fellow, Institute of Defence Studies and Analyses, India*

Conversation Starters:

Shanthie M. D'Souza, *Founder & President, Mantraya, India*

Magdalena Kirchner, *Country Director Afghanistan, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung*

Poonam Dabas, *Founding Trustee & President, Centre for Media & Strategic Studies, India*

Kabir Taneja, *Fellow, Strategic Studies Programme, Observer Research Foundation*

14:30-14:45 **Group Photo**

14:45-15:45 **Road to 2030: Strategies for Achieving Sustainable Inclusive Growth and Development While Saving Our Planet**

The global order is being disrupted both politically and economically, rendering ever more difficult, the emerging world's quest to ensure sustainable development. Developing countries are struggling to raise finance to fuel their sustainable development pathways, while trillions of dollars remain locked up in Western pension funds and insurance schemes. Moreover, the global developmental agenda is being increasingly securitized. National security is being evoked to marginalize civil society, international organizations and voices that are most implicated by climate change. Walls around technology will lead to more inequality with developing states losing much access to key tools for development and growth. In the midst of these complexities and uncertainties, how do we ensure inclusive and sustainable growth?

Chair: Ashok Khosla, *Chairman, Development Alternatives*

Conversation Starters:

Jyoti Parikh, *Executive Director, Integrated Research and Action for Development (IRADe), India*

Shibani Ghosh, *Fellow, Centre for Policy Research, India*

Syed M. Kamal, *Senior Research Associate, Policy Research Institute, Bangladesh*

15:45-16:00 **Tea/Coffee Break**

16:00-17:15 **India Think Tanks: Strategies, Operational Challenges and Action Agenda 2020**

The churn, complexity and uncertainty in global politics has several implications on domestic issues too. Think tanks in India are being increasingly sought by policymakers for their expertise to navigate a complex world. Technology and polarization in politics also pose challenges for Indian think tanks, to conduct empirical policy research work. In such a situation, how should Indian think tanks contribute to India's growth story? What are the challenges, actions and strategies they should adopt to be relevant to governments and the public?

Co-Chairs:

James G. McGann, *Director, Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program, Lauder Institute, University of Pennsylvania*

Harsh V. Pant, *Director, Studies, and Head, Strategic Studies Program, Observer Research Foundation*

Conversation Starters:

Neelam Deo, *Co-founder & Director, Gateway House, India*

Pradeep Singh Mehta, *Secretary General, CUTS International*

Arun Sahgal, *Senior Fellow, Delhi Policy Group, India*

17:15-18:00 **Transfer to Taj Palace**

18:00-19:30 **Book Discussion: The New World Disorder and the Indian Imperative**

As we approach the end of the second decade of the twenty-first century, all about us is chaos. The international liberal order is facing a moment of crisis. With Darwinism (or the survival of the fittest) having guided the construction and management of international systems of governance for seven decades, it is no surprise that as sweeping change overtakes the world, there are no longer many takers for these arrangements. The New World Disorder and the Indian Imperative is a major study of this new moment. The book identifies the new actors and ideas that will emerge from the remnants of the old dispensation to script the architecture of the twenty-first century. India's sustained commitment to constitutional democracy and its unique identity as a non-hegemonic global power will be central to this new order. In today's multipolar, contested and uncertain world, India, the authors argue, may well be the only country with the credentials and capability to script an equitable ethic for a new international order.

Chair: Yalda Hakim, *Journalist, BBC World News*

Conversation Starters:

James G. McGann, *Director, Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program, Lauder Institute, University of Pennsylvania*

Shashi Tharoor, *Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha, India*

Jane Holl Lute, *CEO, SICPA*

Tobias Feakin, *Australia's Ambassador for Cyber Affairs*

Shen Dingli, *Professor, Fudan University*

(Combined Session with Raisina Young Fellows)

19:30-20:00 **Closing Remarks**

James G. McGann, *Director, Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program, Lauder Institute, University of Pennsylvania*

Harsh V. Pant, *Director, Studies, and Head, Strategic Studies Program, Observer Research Foundation*

20:00 onwards **Networking Dinner**



List of Participants



Major General Dipankar BANERJEE(Retired), AVSM

Convenor, Chanakya Chakra, Republic of India

Major General Dipankar Banerjee (Retired) served in the Indian Army for 36 years before pursuing a full time career in strategic analysis and security. For the last two decades he has held senior Directorial level positions at leading think tanks in India including the Institute of Defence Studies and Analyses and Executive Director of the Regional Centre of Strategic Studies for South Asia located at Colombo. For the last ten years he headed the Institution of Peace and Conflict Studies(IPCS). His expertise lies in disarmament, international security, China and its strategic policies and the PLA. Currently he is the Convenor of the Chanakya Chakra, an elite discussion forum in Delhi on India's strategic choices and options.



Saurabh PANDEY

Founding Director/Convenor-Dialogue & Conference, India Think Council, Republic of India

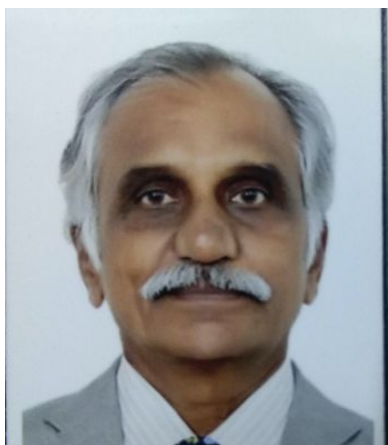
Expert of Internal Audit and Risk Management Advisory. Partner in SPS ACUITY LLP; New Delhi based Risk Advisory firm. He has served on the board of IIA-Delhi in 2014 and has been a member of the Institute of Internal Auditor(Delhi Chapter). His past association with India's reputed Chartered Accountants firm in New Delhi and auditing experience of diversified companies of different industries and of national/international repute, Ministry programs and PSUs across the Indian states; gives him a solid background to enter into Policy research field. He is the founding Director of India Think Council and convenor of Council's dialogue and conferences. Executes outreach development of the council's vision and objective across the globe. He has successfully curated International dialogue series in India like Kumbh Conclave ,Sangam Samvad, Awadh Mithila Summit, International Auditors Summit in association with Universities, Academic bodies, Central and state governments in India.



Raosaheb BAWASKAR

Co-Founder & GS/Founder, Mumbai School of Thoughts/VGF Water Policy Centre (Aurangabad), Republic of India

Mr. Raosaheb Bawaskar is CEO & Founder General Secretary at Mumbai School of Thoughts (MST): a Mumbai based Foreign Affairs and Public Policy Think Tank. He coordinates 'China's Global Strategy Program' at the MST. Mr. Bawaskar has been a visiting Professor for more than 7 years in various prestigious colleges of the city. Mr. Bawaskar is also a Visiting Fellow at the VGF's Center for Water and Development Policy where he mobilizes masses and resources on water issues. Besides, he teaches Political Science at NES Ratnam College, Mumbai. He has written and presented several articles and research papers in journals and international conferences on the subject of his interest.



Commodore Seshadri Vasam R IYENGER(Retired)

Director & Head Strategy & Security Studies, Chennai Centre for China Studies & the Centre for Asia Studies, Republic of India

An alumnus of the Defence Services Staff College, the Naval War College and the International Visitor Leadership Programme,USA, Commodore Seshadri Vasam(Retired.) has had a distinguished career spanning over 34 years. His wide-ranging appointments both at sea and ashore include command of warships, appointment in the INS Vikrant, command of the long-range Maritime Reconnaissance/ASW squadron, member examiner of the Aircrew Categorisation and Standardisation Board (AIRCATS), and Chief Staff Officer (Operations) at Southern Naval Command the premier training command of the Indian Navy. He is presently the Director of the Chennai Centre for China Studies and Head Strategy and Security Studies at the Center for Asia Studies.



Dr. Liyaqat Ayub KHAN

Associate Professor/President, University of Mumbai/Mumbai School of Thought, Republic of India

Dr. Liyaqat Ayub Khan has been an Associate Professor at the Department of Civics and Politics of the University of Mumbai since 2008. Awarded Ph.D. on the thesis, “Russia’s Security Concerns in Southern fringe: A Case study of Practise and Perception (1990-2000)” from Centre for Central Eurasian studies, University of Mumbai. Specialization in Defence and Strategic studies, Eurasian Studies and International relations. Coordinator for Post Graduate Diploma in International studies Program at the Department. Published numerous articles and Research Papers at National and International journals, coordinated various National and International Seminars and Conferences in the Department. Visited United States on International Visitor and Leadership programs in 2009-2010. President, Mumbai School of Thought, a registered NGO in Mumbai. He has teaching and research experience of 22 years at Graduate and post graduate level.



Dr. Jyotish Prakash BASU

Professor of Economics, West Bengal State University, Republic of India

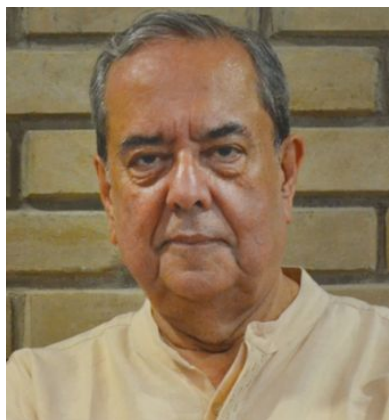
Dr. Basu is a Professor of Economics at West Bengal State University, Kolkata and adjunct faculty at the School of Economics of Amity University, Kolkata. He was formerly the Vice Chancellor of West Bengal State University, Kolkata. He has 28 years of teaching and research experience. At present, he is the Vice President of Bengal Economic Association, Kolkata, India and is the present member of the European Association of Environmental & Resource Economists in Venice, Italy and a life member of the Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata. His current research is focused on social and environmental dimensions of climate change adaptation, forest resource management, forest governance, vulnerability measurement and multidisciplinary research on sustainable development goals.



Udai S MEHTA

Deputy Executive Director/South Asia Desk Officer, Consumer Unity & Trust Society(CUTS International), Jaipur, Republic of India

Udai S Mehta is Deputy Executive Director with CUTS International. Mehta joined CUTS in 2005 as an Asst. Policy Analyst in London Resource Centre, UK. After having worked for nearly a year, he moved back to India and was placed in the CUTS Centre for Competition, Investment & Economic Regulation(CUTS CCIER). Mehta did his Masters in International Economic Laws from The University of Warwick, UK. Since January 2015, he was promoted as a Deputy Executive Director, CUTS and is now considered a Senior Staff member of the organization, not only responsible for programmes, but also in shaping the strategic development of the organization for the future. Further, he was also given the additional responsibility of being the ‘South Asia Desk Officer’ of CUTS. Mehta’s current areas of interests include regulatory reforms, competition policy and consumer protection, jobs, green growth, etc.



Dr. Ashok KHOSLA

Chairman, Development Alternatives Group, Republic of India

Since 1982, Chairman of the Development Alternatives Group, the world's first social enterprise dedicated to sustainable development. Innovation by the nonprofit DA, and incubation and market delivery by the commercial affiliate, TARA create sustainable, scalable consumption and production solutions in rural India. Earlier, after faculty positions at Harvard, Dr. Ashok Khosla became Director of the Indian Government's first Environment Office and then Director of Infoterra in UNEP. He has been Co-Chair of the UN's International Resource Panel, President of the International Union for Conservation of Nature(IUCN) and President of the Club of Rome. He was a member of the Government of India's National Security Advisory Board and Scientific Advisory Council to the Cabinet and was awarded the OBE by the UK Government, the UN's Sasakawa Environment Prize, UAE's Zayed International Environment Prize, WWF's Duke of Edinburgh Medal and the Award for Outstanding Social Entrepreneur by the Schwab Foundation. He has an MA from Cambridge University, a Ph.D. in Experimental Physics from Harvard

University.



Dr. Probal GHOSH

Head - Modelling Group, Integrated Research & Development(IRADe), Republic of India

Dr. Probal Pratap Ghosh has done his MS in Quantitative Economics and Ph.D. in Macroeconomics. He has been associated with Integrated Research And Development (IRADe) since 2008. He is presently heading the Modelling Group at IRADe. Prior to joining IRADe, he worked in the Planning Commission, Government of India. His research interests are on application of econometrics, time series, structural modelling and optimization techniques for climate and energy policies, energy planning, energy technology assessment. He has a number of project reports and international papers on agriculture, power, transport, energy policy, and climate change to his credit.



Bharat SHARMA

Senior Visiting Fellow/ Scientist Emeritus, ICRIER/International Water Management Institute, Republic of India

Senior Visiting Fellow at ICRIER, India and Scientist Emeritus at International Water Management Institute. More than 30 years professional experience on food, land and water policy in Asia and Africa. More than 100 peer reviewed scientific and policy papers and books.



Professor Nil RATAN

Professor of Social Sciences, A N Sinha Institute of Social Studies - Patna, Bihar, Republic of India

Professor Ratan has been working on Child Protection and Child Labour issues since the 1990s. He was Project Director of the child labour cell at Ansis, which was supported by UNICEF for almost ten years. He trained at the VV Giri Institute of Social Studies, Noida, NIRD, Hyderabad, NIPCCID, Delhi & Lucknow and at ILO World Training Centre Turin, Italy. He has given lectures on child labour issues and conducted courses on child protection in collaboration with TISS (Mumbai), UNICEF and Save the Children. He has worked closely with the Bihar State Department of Labour & Welfare to successfully implement the 'Happy Hisua' campaign in Nawada district - where the Hisua block was declared a 'child labour free block', the first of its kind in India.



Pradeep Singh MEHTA

Founder Secretary General, Consumer Unity & Trust Society (CUTS International), Jaipur, Republic of India

Mr. Pradeep S Mehta (71) is the founder Secretary General of the Jaipur-based Consumer Unity & Trust Society (CUTS International), a leading economic policy research, advocacy and networking, non-governmental group in India, with offices in Nairobi, Lusaka, Hanoi, Accra, Geneva and Washington DC. Established in 1983/84, CUTS International has now completed 35 glorious years. It is perhaps the only Indian NGO with such a wide international presence. Currently, he is a Member of the Board of Trade; Better Regulatory Advisory Group; and Steering Committee on Ecomark; Think Tank on "Framework for a National Policy on E-commerce" of the Government of India. Among several advisory positions, he has been and/or is honorary Adviser to the Commerce and Industries Minister of India, Trade, Commerce & Industry Minister of Zambia and to the Director General of the WTO.



Rohit MAGOTRA

Deputy Director, Integrated Research & Action for Development (IRADe), New Delhi, Republic of India

Rohit Magotra has a Masters in Environmental Science with advanced degree in management from IIFM, Bhopal. His international experience includes working on Disaster Risk Reduction, Disaster management and mitigation strategies, vulnerability assessment, environment & climate change, climate resilience, natural resource management & sustainable development, assessment & monitoring, strategies formulation, methodology development, policy research & advocacy and ICT4 Development in South Asia. He has expertise in developing and conducting national training courses, managing and coordinating regional projects to central, state and local level governments and International organizations and Non-Government Agencies in strategic and programme planning and capacity development.



Dr. Subodh KANDAMUTHAN

Director & Professor, Centre for Health Care Management , Republic of India

Dr. Subodh Kandamuthan has 15 years of experience in Health Economics, Health Financing and Health Policy. He works closely with the Union and state governments in India in numerous policy level projects in Health Policy and Financing and Monitoring and Evaluation. He holds a Masters in Development Economics, M.Phil. in Applied Economics and Ph.D. in Health Economics. He has also worked as faculty in Health Economics at the Institute of Economic Growth, New Delhi, Institute of Health Systems, Hyderabad and as a technical consultant in Finance and Public Procurement to Health department of Government of Andhra Pradesh. He is currently involved in the capacity building of the Prime minister Health Insurance Scheme (Ayushman Bharat) in all states and Union Territories along with National Health Authority and GIZ. He teaches Health Economics, Health Policy, Health Insurance and Public Health for Post Graduate Diploma in Hospital Management at ASCI and has also taught for the MBA Health and Hospital Management programmes at numerous universities and institutes in India like University of Hyderabad, LV Prasad Eye Institute etc. Dr. Kandamuthan has published papers in national and international journals and has co-authored three books. He has attended and presented papers at a large number of National and International conferences and has also visited more than 30 countries for

professional purposes.



Dr. Ranjana KUMARI

Director, Centre for Social Research, Delhi, Republic of India

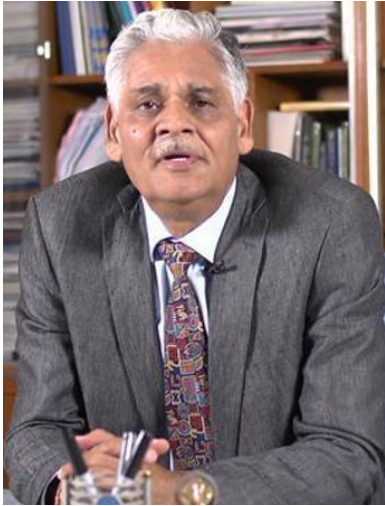
Dr. Ranjana Kumari has been a leader in the Indian women's movement due with the mission to empower women & girls of India. She has served as the Coordinator of the SANAT in Persons & is a member-Central Advisory Board on "Pre Conception & Pre Natal Diagnostic Tests Act, 2001", & the Central Advisory Committee-Prevention of Trafficking in Women & Children. She served as Senior Advisor, Ministry of Labor, GoI; member-Task Force on Industrial Relations, ILO, UN & as a senior professional at UN. Dr. Kumari has received international recognition for working towards women empowerment & has been included in Apolitical's list of 100 Most Influential People in Gender Policy 2019.



Aruna Narayan SHINDE

Academic Consultant, Tribal Welfare Residential Education Society, Govt. of Telangana, Republic of India

Ms. Aruna Narayan Shinde holds a Masters degree in Social Work from the University of Mumbai, and has worked with numerous NGOs including the likes of Karunay Trust, Resource and Support Center for Development, and, the Arpan Organisation as a professional Social Worker. At present, Ms. Shinde is working with the Government of the State of Telangana's Tribal Welfare Residential Education Society in the capacity of an Academic Consultant with her research focused upon social welfare policy, civil society and inclusiveness.



Dr. Ram Kumar MISHRA

Director, Institute of Public Enterprise, Republic of India

Dr R K Mishra, is ONGC Subir Raha Chair Professor on Corporate Governance and Senior Professor and Director, Institute of Public Enterprise, Hyderabad, India, a Ph.D from the University of Rajasthan and a visiting fellow at London Business School, studied for International Teachers programme at SDA Bocconi, Milan. Dr Mishra taught at the University of Bradford, and was a visiting Professor at Maison Des Sciences De L' Hommes, Paris, Faculty of Economics, University of Ljubljana and Accountancy Research Institute (ARI), Universiti of Teknologi Mara, Malaysia. He has conducted research for Finance Commission, Planning Commission and Indian Council of Social Science Research. He is special invite on OECD Working Group on Privatization and Corporate Governance of SOEs and Asian Network of Corporate Governance. He is also a Member 'Panel of Experts on Reforms in Central Public Sector Enterprises' set up by the Planning Commission, Govt of India, Member, Adhoc Taskforce set up by the Cabinet Secretariat, to review the Results Framework Documents of the various ministries of the Govt of India, Ad hoc Task Force on Memorandum of Understanding, Government of India. His areas of interest include Urbanization, Corporate Governance, Corporate Social Responsibility, Sustainable Development, Public Enterprise Management, Corporate and International Finance.



Patrick RUETHER

Country Representative – India, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung(FES), Republic of India/Federal Republic of Germany

Patrick has worked with the FES for 10 years & is based in Delhi since 2015. Patrick focuses on the intersections of social inclusion, tech. & digital transformations, economic progress & sustainability. His focus is on the application of AI in the Indian context. His background is in political science, international economics & business. He is enrolled in the Global Leaders Executive Program at Aalto University.



Dr. Arunabha GHOSH

Founder-CEO, Council on Energy Environment & Water, Republic of India

Dr. Arunabha Ghosh a public policy professional, adviser, author, columnist, and institution builder. As the founder-CEO of the Council on Energy, Environment and Water, since 2010, he has led CEEW to the top ranks as one of South Asia's leading policy research institution (five years in a row); and among the world's 20 best climate think-tanks in 2016. He has been actively involved in the design of the International Solar Alliance since inception. He conceptualised and is a founding board member of the Clean Energy Access Network (CLEAN). With experience in 43 countries, he previously worked at Princeton, Oxford, UNDP (New York), and WTO (Geneva). In 2018, the UN Secretary-General nominated him to the UN's Committee for Development Policy. In 2018, the Government of India appointed him as a member of the Environment Pollution (Prevention & Control) Authority for the National Capital Region.



Dr. Shanthie Mariet D'SOUZA

Founder & President, Mantraya, Republic of India

Dr. D'Souza is Teacher of Defence & Strategic Studies; Member-Research & Advisory Committee, Naval War College, Goa; Board Director-RCSC, Colombo; Research Fellow-WeltTrends-Institut für internationale Politik, Germany; Editorial board member-Small Wars & Insurgencies; Associate editor-Journal of Asian Security & International Affairs; Expert & Contributor-Middle East-Asia Project, Middle East Institute, Washington DC; Senior analyst-South Asia desk, Wikistrat Analytic Community & Adviser-Independent Conflict Research & Analysis, London. Dr. D'Souza's expertise include: Politics of aid, development & security in Afghanistan; State & Peace building in fragile states; Transition & Prospects for long term stabilisation of Afghanistan; Security Sector Reform; Rule of law, Political systems, Electoral Reform & observation; Reintegration, reconciliation & rehabilitation of post war combatants; Sub-national governance & downward accountability in Afghanistan; International interventions, Aid delivery & Post conflict stabilisation; Women, peace & conflict; Strategic Communications; Countering terrorism, insurgencies & violent extremism; Asymmetric & emerging security threats; Armed conflicts, illicit networks & organised crime; Non-traditional security threats in Asia; Emerging powers & Great power politics; India's foreign, maritime & security policy; Prospects for Regional Cooperation in South & South East Asia.



Professor Jyoti PARIKH

Executive Director, Integrated Research & Action for Development (IRADe), New Delhi, Republic of India

Dr. Parikh has been appointed as the advisor for Global commission on adaptation set up by UN Secretary General and Gates foundation managed by World Resources Institute. She was also a member of World Economic Forum's Global Agenda on Decarbonization of Energy Sector. She has served as energy consultant to the World Bank, the U.S. Department of Energy, EEC, Brussels and UN agencies such as UNIDO, FAO, UNU, and UNESCO, Environment Consultant to UNDP, World Bank and so on. She worked as an advisor to various ministries for Gov. of India. Previously she was a Member of the Prime Ministers Council on Climate Change "India and is a recipient of Nobel Peace Prize awarded to IPCC authors in 2007. She was a member of science and technical advisory panel (STAP) for Global Environment Facility (CEF) and a member of Decarbonizing Energy for World Economic Forum.



Abhishek KUMAR

Director, CUTS International-International Policy Centre, Republic of India

Abhishek Kumar is Director at CUTS International and leads CUTS International Public Policy Centre. In the past, he has worked with Earnst & Young, Royal Bank of Scotland Foundation, Digital Empowerment Foundation, Members of Parliament, UN assignments and as Senior News Editor at CNN-IBN. He contributes regularly to several publications and newspapers on public policy issues and has made over fifty documentaries on development issues.



Milind BAWASKAR

Founder President, Venuganga Foundation, Aurangabad, Maharashtra, Republic of India

Mr. Milind Bawaskar is Founder President of the Venuganga Foundation, established in 2011 in Aurangabad city of Maharashtra state. He has been engaged in policy advise, teaching and monitoring since last 10 years. His area of work is Rural Development, education, and resource management. He has been advising various village governance bodies in Aurangabad district.



MD Mayen Uddin TAZIM

National Consultant (Social Safeguards Specialist), Asian Development Bank

MD Mayen Uddin Tazim obtained Masters in Political Science from the University of Chittagong (presently Chottogram) and post graduation in English from the World English Institute, USA. Tazim has been working in the field of Social Development/ Safeguards for over 30 years for the different development projects dealing with the World Bank, ADB, JICA, DFID, UNDP, EU etc. In dealing with the different development projects for social safeguards and land acquisition policy, he is responsible for social mobilization to improve the human, social development and financial capacity of the rural community to promote their livelihoods and food security as well as to ensure social protection, saving from the vulnerability during crisis, especially women access to resources for their empowerment. Presently, Tazim is working as National Consultant(Social Safeguards Specialist) with ADB for the Emergency Assistance Project for Rohingya Refugee.



Françoise NICOLAS

Senior Researcher & Director-Center for Asian Studies, French Institute of International Relations(IFRI), Paris, French Republic

Françoise Nicolas is a senior Researcher and Director of the Center for Asian Studies at the French Institute of International Relations (IFRI), Paris. She teaches at Sciences Po, Paris (Europe-Asia program, Le Havre campus) and Sciences Po (Lyon), and is also a consultant to the Directorate for Financial, Fiscal and Enterprise Affairs (DAF) of the OECD, with a focus on Southeast Asian non-member economies.

She holds a Ph.D. in international economics(1991) and an MA in political science(1985) from the Graduate Institute of International Studies(Geneva, Switzerland). She has also studied at the University of Sussex (1980-81) and was a visiting fellow at the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies(ISEAS) in Singapore (1999) and at the Korea Institute for International Economic

Policy(KIEP) in Seoul(2004). Her research focuses on development strategies and regional economic integration in East Asia; FDI and growth; emerging economies and globalization.



Dr. Jitendra G.C.

President, Sajha Foundation, Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal

Dr. Jitendra GC is the founder and executive chairperson of Sajha Foundation-Nepal, a think tank and policy research institute based in Kathmandu Nepal. He holds a PHD in governance. A team of scholars formed the Sajha Foundation to work and serve Nepal in inclusive economic growth, global governance, climate change, urbanization and democracy. Globally he served in many Think Tank forums with policy articles and research reports and books.



Ugo TRAMBALLI

Senior Advisor & Head of the India Desk, Italian Institute for International Political Studies (ISPI), Italian Republic

Mr. Ugo Tramballi is a Senior Advisor and the Head of the India Desk at the Italian Institute for International Political Studies (ISPI). A veteran journalist, he joined the Metropolitan section of “Il Giornale” in 1976. He served as the newspaper’s Middle East correspondent in Beirut from 1983 to ’87 with war correspondences from Lebanon, Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan and extensive coverage in India and Pakistan. He was Moscow correspondent from 1987 to ’91 and then Global Correspondent and columnist with the Italian Economic newspaper “Il Sole 24 Ore”. He covered the Middle East peace process, India’s Economic reforms, South Africa transition to democracy, China rise and Hong Kong handover, the impact of globalization on World Politics, the World after 9/11, Civil uprising in the Middle East, the financial crisis in the Western World and rise of populism. He is a member of the Istituto Affari Internazionali, IAI, Rome, and Centro per la Pace in Medio Oriente, CIPMO, Milan as well as a World Economic Forum’s Media Leader. Among his books: Inside India (1988), The Day Winter Is Over: Russia After Eltsin (1999), The Stones and the Olive Trees – A History of Palestine (2002), Israel – The Incomplete Dream (2008), Mother India (2018). On ISPI’s website, he publishes a weekly blog on international affairs, “Slow News”.



Dr. Manoj PANDA

RBI Chair Professor, Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi, Republic of India

Dr. Manoj Panda is the RBI Chair Professor at the Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi. He was earlier Director of the Institute of Economic Growth and of the Centre for Economic and Social Studies (CESS), Hyderabad. He has been a Member of the Financial Sector Regulatory Appointment Search Committee and was a Member of the National Statistical Commission. He holds a Ph.D. in Economics from the Indian Statistical Institute and spent a year at Yale University, USA on a post-doctoral fellowship.



Kanchana RAMANUJAM

Research Assistant, Centre for Land Warfare Studies(CLAWS), New Delhi, Republic of India

Kanchana Ramanujam works as a Research Assistant at the Centre for Land Warfare Studies(CLAWS), New Delhi. She holds a Master's degree in Defence and Strategic Studies from University of Madras and a Bachelor's degree in Biotechnology from Goa University. She is a university topper in the former. Her area of research is China. Her other areas of interest are terrorism, warfare, and matters military.



Himanshu KATARIA

Senior Fellow, Centre for Land Warfare Studies(CLAWS), New Delhi, Republic of India

Mr Himanshu Kataria is presently a Senior Fellow with Centre for Land Warfare Studies.



Participant Feedback and Recommendations

Improve diversity and inclusion.

- Foster youth engagement and empowerment to further think tank objectives.
 - Identify areas where education and training could be bolstered so that students are prepared for the policy environment (for example, research methods and security studies).
- Expand opportunities for women leadership and executive roles in think tanks.
- Develop measurable objectives for including diverse identities and perspectives in the policy field.

Improve relations with other think tanks, within and beyond South Asia.

- Create a global coalition to overcome gaps in knowledge, contradictory research, language barriers.
- Develop a working group/think tank leadership that meets regularly throughout the year to coordinate communication and projects across think tanks.
- Promote interdisciplinary research and identify common policy goals.
- Conduct regular training sessions on think tank management for leaders of think tanks and prospective scholars.

Improve relations with the Indian government

- Many prospective funders often ask about the affiliation of think tanks before agreeing to funding, particularly those government bodies, even if the think tank is registered under governing law. Develop a mechanism to get affiliation recognized by the Indian government, potentially at the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA).
- Improve recognition among policymakers so that think tanks are sought when policy alternatives are in need.
- Open up government datasets for public access.

List of Participating Institutions

A N Sinha Institute of Social Studies (ANSISS)	<i>India</i>
ADB-Asian Think Tanks Network (ATTN)	<i>India</i>
Amity University-Kolkata	<i>India</i>
Asian Development Bank	<i>Bangladesh</i>
Asian Confluence	<i>India</i>
Bangalore Political Action Committee	<i>India</i>
Carnegie India	<i>India</i>
Centre for Development Alternatives (CFDA)	<i>India</i>
Centre for Economic and Social Development	<i>Azerbaijan</i>
Centre for Healthcare Management-Administrative Staff College of India (ASCI)	<i>India</i>
Center for International Relations	<i>Poland</i>
Centre for Land Warfare Studies (CLAWS)	<i>India</i>
Centre for Latin American and International Studies, Goa University	<i>India</i>
Centre for Media & Strategic Studies	<i>India</i>
Centre for Social Research (CSR)	<i>India</i>
Centre for Women's Development Studies (CWDS)	<i>India</i>
Chanakya Chakra	<i>India</i>
Chatham House	<i>United Kingdom</i>
Chennai Centre for China Studies (C3S)	<i>India</i>
Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW)	<i>India</i>
Council on Foreign Relations	<i>United States</i>
Consumer Unity and Trust Society (CUTS)	<i>India</i>
Delhi Policy Group	<i>India</i>
Development Alternatives	<i>India</i>
Fields of View	<i>India</i>
Foundation for Democratic Reforms	<i>India</i>

French Institute of International Relations	<i>France</i>
Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES)	<i>Germany</i>
Hindu Center for Politics and Public Policy	<i>India</i>
India Think Tank Council	<i>India</i>
Indian Army	<i>India</i>
Indian Council of Social Science Research, North Eastern Regional Centre (ICSSR-NERC)	<i>India</i>
Indian Institute of Dalit Studies (IIDS)	<i>India</i>
Institute for Competitiveness	<i>India</i>
Institute of Economic Growth (IEG)	<i>India</i>
Institute of Public Enterprise (IPE)	<i>India</i>
Integrated Research and Action for Development (IRADe)	<i>India</i>
International Water Management Institute (IWMI)	<i>Nepal</i>
Italian Institute for International Political Studies (ISPI)	<i>Italy</i>
Lobachevsky University of Nizhny Novgorod	<i>Russia</i>
Maldives Think Tank Initiative	<i>Maldives</i>
Mumbai School of Thoughts	<i>India</i>
Sajha Foundation Nepal	<i>Nepal</i>
Strategic Specialist for Think Tanks	<i>India</i>
The Freedom School	<i>India</i>
The Hindu Centre	<i>India</i>
United Service Institution of India (USI)	<i>India</i>
Vivekananda Institute of Professional Studies (VIPS)	<i>India</i>
West Bengal State University, Kolkata	<i>India</i>

Forum Host, Organizer and Partner Institution



Observer Research Foundation

ORF began its journey in 1990 at the juncture of ideation tempered by pragmatism. During the period of India's transition to a new engagement with the international economic order, several challenges emerged, evoking a need for an independent forum that could critically examine the problems facing the country and help develop coherent policy responses. ORF was thus formed, and brought together, for the first time, leading Indian economists and policymakers to present the agenda for India's economic reforms.

Propelled by the process of reforms initiated in the 1990s, ORF, over the past 30 years of its existence, has effectively narrated and participated in India's story as the country has acquired an unmistakable global footprint. From primarily looking inward and engaging with domestic reforms, to gradually forging global partnerships, ORF today plays a seminal role in building political and policy consensus that enables India to interact with the world.

ORF seeks to lead and aid policy thinking towards building a strong and prosperous India in a fair and equitable world. It sees India as a country poised to play a leading role in the knowledge age — a role in which it shall be increasingly called upon to proactively ideate in order to shape global conversations, even as it sets course along its own trajectory of long-term sustainable growth.

ORF helps discover and inform India's choices. It carries Indian voices and ideas to forums shaping global debates. It provides non-partisan, independent, well-researched analyses and inputs to diverse decision-makers in governments, business communities, and academia and to civil society around the world.

ORF's mandate is to conduct in-depth research, provide inclusive platforms and invest in tomorrow's thought leaders today.



2019-2020 TTCSP Think Tank Summit and Fora Schedule*

* Summits and fora dates are subject to change but are confirmed unless otherwise indicated

September 23-25 2019

Latin America Think Tank Summit, Bogota, Colombia TTCSP Partner: Fedesarrollo & Fundación Ideas de La Paz

October 29-30, 2019

MENA Think Tank Summit, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates TTCSP Partner: Emirates Policy Center

November 10-12, 2019

Asia Think Tank Summit, Bangkok, Thailand, Partner: Trade, Investment and Innovation Division UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

December 5, 2019

Euro-Med Think Tank Forum, Rome, Italy TTCSP Partner: Institute for International Political Studies ISPI

December 12-13, 2019

Global Think Tank Summit, Rio de Janeiro, TTCSP Partner: Fundação Getúlio Vargas (FGV)

January 30, 2020

Think Tank and Civil Societies: Catalyst for Ideas, Innovation and Action 2020 Why Think Tanks Matter in Washington, DC and 150 cities around the world.

February 2020

AI Think Tank Forum, Palo Alto, California or another venue

February 2020

Africa Think Tank Summit, Cape town, South Africa

March 2020

North America Think Tank Summit, Washington, DC

April 2020

Europe Think Tank Summit, Marseilles, France

Date and location to be determined

Global Food and Water Security Summit

Date to be determined

Bahrain Think Tank Regional/Global Summit

Think Tanks & Civil Societies Program

The Lauder Institute

The University of Pennsylvania

“Helping to bridge the gap between knowledge and policy”

Researching the trends and challenges facing
think tanks, policymakers, and policy-oriented
civil society groups...

Sustaining, strengthening, and building
capacity for think tanks around the world...

Maintaining the largest, most
comprehensive database of over
8,000 think tanks...

All requests, questions, and comments should be directed to:

James G. McGann, Ph.D.

Senior Lecturer, International Studies

Director

Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program

The Lauder Institute

University of Pennsylvania



About TTCSP

Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program

The Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program (TTCSP) of the Lauder Institute at the University of Pennsylvania conducts research on the role policy institutes play in governments and civil societies around the world. Often referred to as the “think tanks’ think tank,” TTCSP examines the evolving role and character of public policy research organizations. Over the last 30 years, the TTCSP has developed and led a series of global initiatives that have helped bridge the gap between knowledge and policy in critical policy areas such as international peace and security, globalization and governance, international economics, environmental issues, information and society, poverty alleviation, and healthcare and global health. These international collaborative efforts are designed to establish regional and international networks of policy institutes and communities that improve policy making while strengthening democratic institutions and civil societies around the world.

The TTCSP works with leading scholars and practitioners from think tanks and universities in a variety of collaborative efforts and programs and produces the annual Global Go To Think Tank Index that ranks the world’s leading think tanks in a variety of categories. This is achieved with the help of a panel of over 1,900 peer institutions and experts from the print and electronic media, academia, public and private donor institutions, and governments around the world. We have strong relationships with leading think tanks around the world, and our annual Think Tank Index is used by academics, journalists, donors and the public to locate and connect with the leading centers of public policy research around the world. Our goal is to increase the profile and performance of think tanks and raise the public awareness of the important role think tanks play in governments and civil societies around the globe.

Since its inception in 1989, the TTCSP has focused on collecting data and conducting research on think tank trends and the role think tanks play as civil society actors in the policy-making process. To date TTCSP has provided technical assistance and capacity building programs in 81 countries. We are now working to create regional and global networks of think tanks in an effort to facilitate collaboration and the production of a modest yet achievable set of global public goods. Our goal is to create lasting institutional and state-level partnerships by engaging and mobilizing think tanks that have demonstrated their ability to produce high quality policy research and shape popular and elite opinion and actions for public good.

The Lauder Institute of Management and International Studies

The Lauder Institute of Management and International Studies offers an M.A. in international studies and conducts fundamental and policy-oriented research on current economic, political, and business issues. It organizes an annual conference that brings academics, practitioners, and policy makers together to examine global challenges such as financial risks, sustainability, inequality, and the future of the state.

University of Pennsylvania

The University of Pennsylvania (Penn) is an Ivy League school with highly selective admissions and a history of innovation in interdisciplinary education and scholarship. Its peer institutions are Harvard, Stanford, Columbia, Brown, Dartmouth, and the University of Chicago in the US and Oxford and Cambridge in the UK. A world-class research institution, Penn boasts a picturesque campus in the middle of Philadelphia, a dynamic city that is conveniently located between Washington, D.C. and New York, New York the University of Pennsylvania was founded by Benjamin Franklin in 1740 to push the frontiers of knowledge and benefit society by integrating study in the liberal arts and sciences with opportunities for research and practical, pre-professional training at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. Penn is committed to meeting the full demonstrated need of all undergraduates with grant-based financial aid, making this intellectually compelling integration of liberal and professional education accessible to talented students of all backgrounds and empowering them to make an impact on the world.

TTCSP Recent and Forthcoming Publications:

Think Tanks: The New Knowledge and Policy Brokers in Asia (Brookings Press and Asian Development Bank Institute, 2019) <https://www.brookings.edu/book/think-tanks/>

Trends and Transitions in Security Expertise from Deterrence to Climate Change and Back Again (Routledge, 2017)
<https://www.routledge.com/Global-Trends-and-Transitions-in-Security-Expertise-From-Nuclear-Deterrence/McGann/p/book/9781138304000>

Think Tanks, Foreign Policy and the Emerging Power Policy Networks (MacMillan, 2017)
<https://www.palgrave.com/us/book/9783319603117>

Think Tanks and Emerging Power Policy Networks (MacMillan, 2017)
<https://www.palgrave.com/us/book/9783319719542>

The Fifth Estate: Think Tanks Public Policy and Governance (Brookings, 2016)
<https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/chapter-one-the-fifth-estate.pdf>

Think Tanks and SDGs: Catalysts for Analysis, Innovation and Implementation (TTCSP 2015)
<http://www.lulu.com/shop/james-mcgann/think-tanks-and-sdgs-catalysts-for-analysis-innovation-and-implementation/paperback/product-22563604.html>

How Think Tanks Shape Development Policies (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2014)
<http://www.upenn.edu/pennpress/book/15244.html>

Security Expertise Practice, Power, Responsibility (Chapter 6) (2014 Routledge)
<https://www.routledge.com/Security-Expertise-Practice-Power-Responsibility/Berling-Bueger/p/book/9781138819115>

Think Tanks and Global Policy Networks, Chapter in an edited volume (Routledge, 2013)
<https://www.routledge.com/International-Organization-and-Global-Governance/Weiss-Wilkinson/p/book/9781138236585>

Global Think Tanks, Policy Networks and Governance (Routledge, 2010)
<https://www.routledge.com/Global-Think-Tanks-Policy-Networks-and-Governance/McGann-Sabatini/p/book/9780415779791>